

Chapter through their insatiable attitude towards public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the members of this Chapter, past and present, the very best with their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE 258TH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION AND THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RHINE RIVER ASSAULT

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I'm honored to congratulate the Army's 258th Engineer Combat Battalion for their heroism and service to United States of America as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Rhine River Assault Crossing. Initially to be celebrated this past year when the pandemic began, we must waste no more time in honoring these brave Warriors of "The Greatest Generation."

The 258th ECB was activated at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, on November 20, 1943; draftees from Pennsylvania reported to the New Cumberland Reception Center on January 25, 1944, where they built a kitchen for their train and loaded it with equipment, preparing for the trip to a destination unknown. Upon arriving at Camp Shelby on February 5, and united with other draftees, the battalion of over 600 was formed; with PA residents comprising 20 percent of the battalion and 44 different states. Over 8 months at Camp Shelby, the battalion completed twelve (12) weeks of Infantry and Engineer Basic Training, and eight (8) weeks of Advanced Engineer Training—learning additional mine clearing techniques and bridge construction.

The battalion left for Camp Shanks, NY, in October before leaving the New York Harbor later that month. They would arrive in Swansea, Wales, on November 4, and would spend time throughout the United Kingdom prior to their departure for Le Havre, France, near year's end—from which the Battalion would be split up throughout France and the Netherlands, working on road maintenance before they'd reconvene in Stevensweert, Holland, to begin training for the Rhine River Assault Crossing.

Beginning their training on March 7, 1945, the small country town of Stevensweert along the Maas River would serve as the launching point for the Rhine River Assault alongside the 30th Infantry Division. In the days to come, the battalion spent time unloading equipment and getting the storm boats ready for river training. Soldiers trained with the infantry day and night to operate the 22 H.P. Storm Boat Motors in preparation for the assault, having to remain extremely quiet on their approach. They later arrived near Rheimsburg, Germany, on March 20—4KM from the Rhine, camouflaging the boats with brush until they were fully prepared for the crossing.

On March 24, they moved the final 200 yards under cover of smoke pots to the bank of the Rhine River, launching the storm boats and waiting for H-Hour amidst what was the largest artillery barrage of the war to that point. The battalion's assault began at 0200hrs, as a heavy smoke screen laid over the river, forcing some boats to lose their di-

rection and forcing them back to the starting shore. S/Sgt. Ray Mosser's boat of two engineers and seven infantry was the first of three waves to cross the river, encountering light resistance while others faced sniper and machine gun fire, as German resistance continued until daylight when the Germans sent up flares and artillery fire. Soon after their landing, the infantry was able to advance through enemy lines, and it wasn't long before they were bringing back prisoners. The battalion's assault brought numerous casualties, including Squad Sergeant Paul Eberle, Pvt. Joseph Sasso, and Tech. Sergeant Robert Strayer.

I am honored to commend the entire 258th Engineer Combat Battalion for their distinguished service to our great Nation. Their bravery and sacrifice was instrumental to crossing the Rhine River—the last natural obstacle to overcome in the continued advancement of Allied Forces. Their victory helped lead to the eventual German surrender on May 8, 1945—aka "V-E Day"—all made possible by a battalion trained to build bridges. We shall long remember their heroism in protecting our country and the world from the evils of Nazism. May God bless them for their tireless service, their dedication to our American freedom, and their legacy of sacrifice.

ANDERSON CARD

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Anderson Card for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Anderson Card is a student at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Anderson Card is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Anderson Card for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassador for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES MATZORKIS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, along with Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, to recognize the life of James "Jim" Matzorkis.

Born in Chicago in 1952, Jim moved with his parents to California as a child. He later graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. After gaining experience in both the private

and public sectors, Jim began working for the Port of Richmond in 1998 as a Marketing Manager and became the Executive Director in 2001. One of Jim's many accomplishments is completing the Honda Port of Entry, which brought significant profitability to the Port. As a testament to Jim's leadership, out of the 149 ports in the United States, the Port of Richmond is currently ranked 27th in total trade. The Port has generated millions of dollars in revenue for the City of Richmond and brought local and international business to our community.

Jim's professional knowledge and dedication led to him serving on the Bay Planning Coalition Board of Directors and the California Association of Port Authorities Executive Advisory Committee. He also participated in Richmond's sister cities program and helped facilitate a strong and lasting relationship with Zhoushan, China, one of Richmond's three sister cities.

In his personal life, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Beverly, and the couple had two daughters. He was known as the patriarch of his family, organizing family reunions and ensuring everyone stayed connected. He loved to travel, especially to Greece where his family would all come together. Jim also enjoyed regaling others with stories from his time working as a concert promoter and security in the rock and roll industry.

Sadly, at just 68 years old, Jim passed away at his home in Oakland, California in December 2020. Jim is remembered by his friends and colleagues as kind and enthusiastic, and someone who made sure everyone around him was happy. Please join me and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE in honoring James Matzorkis for his many contributions to our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE WILLIAM O'BOYLE, SR., ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE LUZERNE COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2021

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Plymouth Little League founder, veteran, and northeastern Pennsylvania native William O'Boyle, Sr. William was inducted into the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame in 2020 for his community engagement and as a co-founder of the Plymouth Little League. He and his fellow inductees will be honored at a reception this spring.

Each year, the Luzerne County Sports Hall of Fame honors those who have brought fame and recognition to the State of Pennsylvania through their outstanding achievements and contributions in athletic endeavors.

William was born in 1922 and grew up in Plymouth, Pennsylvania. In his youth, he enjoyed all sports and was a particularly talented roller skater and ice skater. He graduated from Plymouth High School in 1941.

William answered the call to serve his country and joined the United States Army to fight in World War II. He was part of the Normandy invasion when Allied troops stormed the beaches of Northern France. After exiting the landing craft, he valiantly progressed up the